

## OPINION

by Associate professor DSc. Kostadin Iliev Paev,  
University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" - Burgas,  
internal member of the scientific jury in a competition for the occupation of the  
academic position "associate professor", scientific field "Humanities",  
PN 2.2. History and Archaeology", scientific specialty "New and Modern  
History (History of the Balkan Peoples)", announced by the University "Prof.  
Dr. Asen Zlatarov" in "State Gazette", no. 65 of 28.07.2023.

### **Contest details**

The competition has been announced for the needs of the "History and  
Philosophy" department at the Faculty of Social Sciences. The only candidate  
for participation in the competition is Chief Assistant Professor Petar Stoyanov  
Parushev, Ph.D. From the available documentation, it is clear that the  
requirements of the competition procedure have been met, and the candidate has  
fulfilled the minimum national scientific-metric indicators and the additional  
requirements of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov".

### **Applicant data**

Chief Petar Parushev, assistant professor, obtained a master's degree in the  
specialty "Balkan Studies" at VTU "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" in 1996. In  
2008, he obtained the doctorate degree at the Institute of Balkan Studies at the  
BAS with a defended dissertation on the topic: "The Cyprus Question 1960-  
1974 and Bulgaria". In his professional activity, the candidate worked as a  
teacher, and currently is a head of the "Culture" department in the municipality  
of Burgas, while at the same time holding the academic position of "chief  
assistant" taking half of the activities of a regular position at the University  
"Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", Burgas, Faculty of Social Sciences, Department of  
History and Philosophy.

### **Teaching and project activity**

Currently chief Assistant Petar Parushev, PhD, conducts lectures and seminars on the subjects of "History of the Balkan Peoples", "Economic History", "Historiography", "History of Bulgaria 1878-1944" and "Practice in Museums and Libraries". He is the academic supervisor of graduate students. He is the author of educational programs. For the period 2010-2022, the candidate participated as a team member in six projects, five of which were local, national and one international.

### **Description of scientific works**

The scientific production of the candidate with which he participated in the competition includes: one monograph, a monograph issued on the basis of a dissertation work for the acquisition of the degree Ph.D. Doctor, one chapter of a monograph, one study and 30 articles. Also included in the list are two teaching aids intended for the students' training. A sufficient number of citations to his publications are also available.

### **Scientific contributions**

In the monographic work, the candidate has set himself the goal of comprehensively and thoroughly researching the "Bosnian crisis" of 1908-1909 and its reflection in Europe, the Balkans and in particular in Bulgaria. To write about it, he used as primary sources unpublished archival materials from the funds of the Central State Archive, published sources and periodicals from the period under study. The author also used 77 studies related to the topic of Cyrillic and Latin in Bulgarian, English, Russian, Serbian, German and Turkish respectively. As a merit of the edition, I would point out the attached diplomatic documents related to the subject, the inclusion of photographic material, maps, and a name index.

In concrete terms, the scientific contributions of the study can be divided into two /2/ groups:

General contributions, in which the author supplements and expands the existing conceptual views on the problem, and contributions to Bulgarian historiography, related to an in-depth study of the impact of the "Bosnian crisis" on events Bulgaria in the fall of 1908 and more specifically the declaration of the country's independence. The first group of contributions can include:

1) the author's critical evaluation of the existing and available literature on the subject;

2) introducing unpublished archival sources into scientific circulation;

3) examination of the "Bosnian crisis" through the prism of the events that occurred in the summer of 1908 in the Ottoman Empire (the Young Turk Revolution) as a prerequisite for the crisis;

4) examines the impact of the "Bosnian crisis" on relations between the Great Powers and interstate relations in the Balkans.

The contributions of the second group are reduced to the following:

1) studies the diplomatic history of the declaration of independence of Bulgaria and its recognition on the basis of primary archival sources;

2) follows the position of the Bulgarian government and the ruling political party, reflected in its official record, which achieves a balanced assessment of the events based on the "secret" diplomatic activity and the official policy of the country.;

3) consequences of the declaration of Bulgarian independence on the international relations in Europe and in particular between the Balkan countries are analyzed.

In the rest of the scientific production presented by the candidate, several thematic areas in which he has made scientific contributions are outlined. In general, they are mainly related to the diplomatic history of Bulgaria in its relations with other Balkan countries.

Logically, some of the candidate's publications are directly related to the topic of his monographic work - the Bosnian crisis of 1908-1909 - and to the above-mentioned contributions.

With contributions to the diplomatic history of the Balkans are most of the remaining submitted works of the candidate. Some of these are related to a study of the actions of the Entente countries and the Central Powers to attract allies in the run-up to and during the First World War, and other publications concern the military and diplomatic aspects of the Balkan Wars (1912-1913), again reflected in the opinions of the Bulgarian diplomats. The author's research on the Bulgarian-Greek and Bulgarian-Serbian conflict over Macedonia and Romanian territorial claims in the run-up to and during the First Balkan War can also be attributed to this group.

The candidate's studies on the positions of the Bulgarian diplomacy on the issue of the Serbian outlet to the Adriatic, as well as the creation of the Albanian state during the wars of 1912-1913, are another direction of his scientific interests and contributions.

Some of the other publications of the candidate are dedicated to the local history of the Burgas region during the Ilinden-Preobrazhensky uprising of 1903, the accommodation of refugees in Burgas from the end of the 20s to the beginning of the 30s of the 20th century, the fate of Burgas Jews during the period 1942-1943, with which certain contributions are also outlined.

### **Notes and recommendations**

I do not have specific notes and recommendations in the substance to the scientific production presented by the candidate. Given that his scientific interests chronologically span a very short period – the first and second decades of the 20th century – it is advisable for the candidate to expand the chronological framework of his scientific research. In addition, his publications are mainly in publications of the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov", which is

why I would recommend that in his future work he should focus his efforts on publications in other external journals, as well as in refereed and indexed publications in global and world databases.

### **Conclusion**

The scientific production presented by the candidate is the result of his independent research work. The requirements regarding the procedure, the implementation of the national scientifically measured indicators and other criteria have been met. In this regard, I would like to give my positive assessment and propose Chief. Assistant Professor Petar Stoyanov Parushev, Ph.D., to be elected to the academic position "Associate Professor", in scientific field "Humanities", PN 2.2. History and Archaeology", scientific specialty "New and Latest History (History of the Balkan Peoples)" at the University "Prof. Dr. Asen Zlatarov" Burgas.

**15.11.2023**

**Sofia**

**Associate professor DSc. Kostadin Paev**